

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EPA-01 L-02 SS-15 NSC-05 AF-06

ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-09 RSC-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

COA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 INR-07 IO-10 NSF-01

NSAE-00 PM-03 SP-02 FEAE-00 AEC-05 INT-05 CG-00

DOT-00 JUSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-05 FMC-01 H-01 OIC-02

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /133 W

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R 301216Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9229

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, NO

SUBJECT: OSLO OCEAN DUMPING CONVENTION

REFS: (A) STATE 016125 (B) OSLO 4956 (8 NOV 74)

(C) OSLO 0263 (D) OSLO 0366

1. EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS TO DEPARTMENT, CONTAINED PARA
13 OSLO'S 4956, WERE SET FORTH AS POSSIBLE STEPS US
MIGHT CONSIDER TOWARD HARMONIZING APPROACHES AND
MAKING COMPATIBLE THE OSLO AND LONDON OCEAN DUMPING
CONVENTIONS. IN LIGHT OF NOVEMBER OSLO OCEAN DUMPING
CONVENTION COMMISSION MEETING HERE IT SEEMED SUCH
STEPS WOULD BE USEFUL TO PREVENT CONVENTIONS FROM
DEVELOPING ALONG SEPARATE PERHAPS NON-COMPLEMENTARY
TRACKS AND TO ENHANCE EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION BETWEEN
THEM. PROPOSED EFFORT WOULD BE INITIALLY TO MAKE
SURE THAT TO EXTENT POSSIBLE POLICY AND TECHNICAL DEVELOP-
MENT UNDER EACH CONVENTION WERE EXCHANGED AND POSSIBLY
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SHAPED TOGETHER. THIS WOULD ALSO ENHANCE US INFLUENCE

IN DEVELOPMENT OF CONVENTIONS.

2. SUGGESTION FOR TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP AGREED CRITERIA, EFFECTS DATA, RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAMS WAS AIMED AT SEEKING TO PROVIDE MEANS FOR MAKING COMPATIBLE THE TECHNICAL BASES OF THE CONVENTIONS. IF SIGNATORIES TO THE CONVENTIONS COULD AGREE ON HEALTH EFFECTS DATA AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDIES THEY MIGHT THEN AGREE ON ESTABLISHING CRITERIA. IF THIS WERE ACCOMPLISHED THEY COULD POSSIBLY ALSO AGREE LATER UPON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OBJECTIVES OR EVEN STANDARDS. IF CONVENTION SIGNATORIES DO NOT GO THROUGH THESE STEPS TOGETHER IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THEY WILL BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE AGREED BASIC CRITERIA AND OBJECTIVES. IT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT THEN TO MAKE THE TWO CONVENTIONS COMPATIBLE.

3. THERE IS VALUABLE HISTORICAL EXAMPLE OF THIS IN WHO ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CRITERIA DOCUMENTS WHICH WERE DEVELOPED INITIALLY FROM US CRITERIA DOCUMENTS AND LATER MODIFIED SLIGHTLY AND ISSUED AS WHO APPROVED CRITERIA. AS RESULT MANY COUNTRIES ADOPTED THEM AND AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD A COMMON APPROACH AMONG NATIONS TO AIR AND WATER QUALITY WAS ACHIEVED. TO SOME EXTENT SAME APPROACH WAS USED IN CCMS AIR POLLUTION PROJECT WHERE APRTICIPATING NATIONS DEVELOPED SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO CONTROL AIR POLLUTION USING US CRITERIA, ASSESSMENT AND CONTROL TECHNOLOGY DOCUMENTS AS BASIS FOR ACHIEVING AGREED PROGRAM DOCUMENTS. EPA'S MULTILATERAL PROGRAM DIVISION DIRECTOR ROBERT PORTER IS VERY FAMILIAR WITH THESE EFFORTS AND WE ARE CONFIDENT CAN OUTLINE THEM IN MORE DETAIL AND AUTHORITY THAN EMBASSY.

4. SIMILARLY THE USE OF TECHNICAL GROUPS TO DEFINE AVAILABLE CONTROL TECHNIQUES AND TECHNOLOGY FOR OCEAN DUMPING AND TO EXCHANGE RESEARCH INFORMATION ON EFFECTS AND TECHNOLOGY, WOULD LIKELY SPEED UP EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN THIS IMPORTANT AREA AND WOULD PROBABLY ENHANCE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTIONS. BY ACQUAINTING ALL PARTICIPANTS WITH EXISTING TECHNOLOGY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IT COULD EVEN HELP TO MINIMIZE SOME POTENTIAL INTERNATIONAL TRADE DISTORTIONS. AS CONVENTIONS ARE SET IN TRAIN, EXCHANGE OF MONITORING INFORMATION WOULD ALSO PROVE VALUABLE FOR PARTICIPANTS IN BOTH CONVENTIONS.

5. EFFORTS ALONG THESE LINES WOULD SEEM LIKELY TO HELP ACCOMPLISH US OBJECTIVES IN PREVENTING OCEAN POLLUTION, IN KEEPING THE OPERATIONS OF BOTH CONVENTIONS COMPATIBLE

AND COMPLEMENTARY, AND IN IMPLEMENTING SECTIONS 7 AND 101(C) OF FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1972 WHICH CALL FOR SECRETARY OF STATE TO PROMOTE MEASURES TO DEVELOP ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS SIMILAR TO OUR OWN.

6. US COULD HAVE IMPORTANT IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL OCEAN DUMPING ACTIVITIES IF WORK IS STARTED NOW. EPA IS WELL ALONG, AND PROBABLY AHEAD OF AGENCIES IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, IN DEVELOPING US OCEAN DUMPING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. THUS IT WOULD SEEM LIKELY THAT MANY OF US FINDINGS AND PROCEDURES COULD NOW FORM THE BASIS OF INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ACTIVITY. THIS IS LESS LIKELY TO BE THE CASE IN SEVERAL YEARS, WHEN OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED THEIR OWN PROGRAMS.

7. IN LINE WITH PARA 3 OF STATE 016125, EMBASSY WILL KEEP ABREAST OF AND REPORT ON NORWEGIAN THINKING ABOUT TRANS-ATLANTIC COOPERATION IN POLLUTION CONTROL. IN THIS REGARD EMBASSY WISHES DRAW ATTENTION TO OSLO 0263 WHICH OUTLINES PROPOSED AND NOW APPROVED VISIT OF ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL ERIK LYKKE TO WASHINGTON IN APRIL WHERE HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT IN DETAIL WITH US OFFICIALS. LYKKE IS THE PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY VOICE IN INTERNATIONAL MATTERS. AT THIS TIME HE IS VERY MUCH OCCUPIED WITH DEVISING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEASURES TO COMBAT OIL SPILLS. HE WAS RECENTLY IN UK TO TALK WITH OFFICIALS THERE ABOUT POSSIBLE COLLABORATIVE MEASURES NEEDED IN POLLUTION CONTROL IN NORTH SEA DRILLING AREA. HE IS INTERESTED IN LEARNING IF THERE ARE POSSIBLE TECHNOLOGICAL, OR OTHER STEPS THAT CAN BE UNDERTAKEN TO ENHANCE INTERNATIONAL COOPER-
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ATION IN THIS AREA AND IN THE AREAS AFFECTED BY THE OSLO DUMPING AND PARIS LAND BASED SOURCES CONVENTIONS. HE IS ALSO PROMOTING NORWAY'S INITIATIVE FOR ESTABLISHING A EUROPEAN MONITORING SYSTEM FOR LONG RANGE TRANSMISSION OF AIR POLLUTION. IN LINE WITH MINISTRY'S OIL SPILL INTEREST DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE IN OSLO 0366 REQUEST OF TWO ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY OFFICIALS FOR VISIT US IN FEB-MARCH TO LOOK INTO TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF OIL SPILL CLEANUP.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WATER POLLUTION, OCEAN DUMPING CONVENTION, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OSLO00396
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750034-0652
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975016/aaaaafla.tel
Line Count: 163
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 016125, 75 OSLO 4956, 75 (8, 75 NOV 7
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OSLO OCEAN DUMPING CONVENTION
TAGS: SENV, NO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006